

**DONNELLY  
COLLEGE**

# *Digest*

**SPRING  
2008**

a publication for Donnelly College alumni and friends



**CULTIVATING SUCCESS  
IN A CHANGING  
CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT**

An alumnus reflects on Donnelly, *page 2*  
Donnelly's multi-cultural experience thrives, *page 4*  
Remembering great teachers, *page 6*  
Coming full circle—one nurse's story, *page 10*

## Rejoicing in a rich Donnelly experience

*“The personal concern for students that the Donnelly mission expresses seems to seep from the brick and mortar of the building.”*



Pat (Treff) Callaghan, '59, Alumnus, Academic Advisor and Alumni Association Volunteer capping 50 Years at Donnelly

*I came to Donnelly 50 years ago as a student and retired on February 1, 2008, as a faculty member, after 13 years of service. That September, a half-century ago, I felt inadequate and uncertain about my life's direction. The Benedictine Sisters welcomed me, accepted me unconditionally and helped me see myself through their eyes. It affirmed my self-worth and made a lifetime impression.*

*Donnelly's mission remains virtually unchanged from those early days, and it is more than words on a piece of paper. The personal concern for students that the Donnelly mission expresses seems to seep from the brick and mortar of the building. The Donnelly faculty and staff are continually challenged to keep the mission's personal concern for the students alive. Whenever a student encounters academic difficulty, financial pressure, or a need for guidance the personal concern must be felt and communicated eye-to-eye. True concern manifests itself in smiles, advice, validation and the willingness to listen. I hope that I was able, in a small way, to pay back what those early sisters gave me at 1236 Sandusky, the "old Donnelly."*

*Now is the time to remember what Donnelly was and to rejoice in what it has become. For older alums like me, it's hard to believe that the average age of students is now 27. In our time, most of us were right out of high school, and tuition was dirt-cheap back then because the Benedictine Sisters and Diocesan Priests taught without receiving or expecting compensation. Today in higher education, most students need federal financial aid and scholarships contributed by generous donors to make it. The faculty looks different, mostly lay, and religious habits are not the norm anymore.*

*There is a mural worth seeing in Donnelly's main hall. The artwork, painted by many hands belonging to different races and cultures, celebrates the college's growth into even more ethnic and cultural diversity. Student, faculty and staff participate in the Thanks and Giving celebration held in the fall and the Multicultural Fair and art show in the spring. Please consider volunteering at Donnelly, mentoring an aspiring student, and donating, if you've not yet responded to the recent Phonathon request for contributions. (The Donnelly Alumni Association also requests your e-mail address so that we may keep in touch.) I hope you answer the call and share your e-mail address with [rberg@donnelly.edu](mailto:rberg@donnelly.edu).*

*Now is the time for current students to celebrate state-of-the-art technology, smart classrooms, computer labs, and e-mail. Delight in Donnelly's rich tapestry that embraces cultures and shuns cliques. Involve yourselves in leadership opportunities. Take advantage of the new Career Center where you can explore the richness of life's choices. Most of all rejoice in the new bachelor's degrees and the LPN and Elementary Education programs.*

*My first part-time job in 1954 was in the building Donnelly College currently occupies. However, back then the structure was known as Providence Hospital. The current building is a testament to the continued mission of healing—first, a hospital and now a caring community dedicated to the enrichment of mind and spirit. Somehow, for me, it's sacred space. Let's celebrate.*

*Pat Treff Callaghan*

## Table of Contents

### FEATURES

- 4 Donnelly mission experience thrives
- 6 Remembering great teachers
- 7 Gift merchandise for sale
- 8 Donnelly soccer clubs build spirit
- 9 Embracing Black History
- 10 Coming full circle—one nurse's story
- 11 Scholarship Fund memorializes Archbishop Strecker

### IN EVERY ISSUE

- 2 Leaders' Message:  
by Pat Callaghan  
*Rejoicing in a rich Donnelly experience*

- 12 Calendar of Events

### ON THE COVER

*Aaron Faulkner (standing), intensive English instructor, assists international students who are searching the internet for resources designed to boost academic performance. Students, from the left, are: Anna Avendano (Mexico), Julien Gnipieven Tekombo (Cameroon), and Kyoung-Ok Jeon (South Korea).*

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## New Practical Nursing Program Enrolling Soon!

The Kansas State Board of Nursing approved Donnelly College's new LPN program on March 19, 2008.

### Program Specifics

30-credit hours of course study  
Twenty-one semester hours of theory  
Nine semester hours of clinical  
Evening and weekend classes  
14-17 months to complete

### Prerequisites

**Required Courses:** Principles of biology, physiology and anatomy, general psychology, human growth and development and CPR

**Recommended Courses:** Health care ethics and medical terminology

**Certifications:** Nurse's aide, by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.



### Applications

#### Submission deadlines:

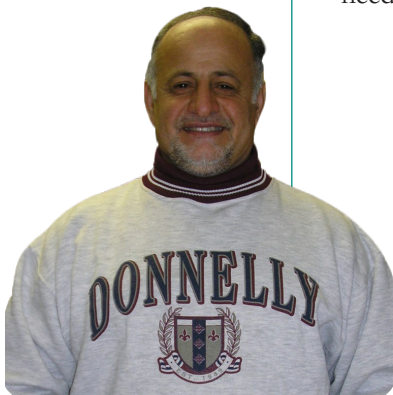
- Summer 2008** - May 15, 2008
- Spring 2009** - November 1, 2008
- Summer 2009** - April 1, 2009



## Donnelly's multi-cultural experience thrives

*"We provide personal service. Other area ESL programs teach English by using CD's and video productions. At Donnelly, we create real life situations and do a lot of role playing. We teach students how to become U.S. citizens and, above all, how to succeed academically."*

*-Cyrus Shadfar*



Associate Dean of Preparatory Studies Cyrus Shadfar, wearing his "old" Donnelly sweatshirt from the 1970s.

Donnelly College's English as a Second Language (ESL) program brings many different ethnic backgrounds together. As students learn to speak the English language, their cultural experiences are shared.

The ESL program was developed under the watchful eye of Associate Dean Cyrus Shadfar. As a youth in Iran, Shadfar dreamed of becoming an Olympic basketball player. He had no aspirations to teach and was not aware that Kansas City, Kansas, much less Donnelly College, existed. So how did Shadfar rise above his aspirations to accept the challenge of shepherding one of the nation's premier English as a Second Language programs?

"I came to America from Iran in 1979, to visit my brothers who had been attending Donnelly since 1973," Shadfar said. "At the time, Donnelly needed an additional ESL instructor and I applied for the position."

In 1979, Donnelly College only offered ESL classes during the day. Shadfar saw the need for evening ESL classes and said he convinced Donnelly's administration to offer them.

"The evening classes started with two students," Shadfar said. "In the space of three weeks the number of students grew to 20. Within five months, I was appointed director of the evening ESL program, and we had four instructors and 75 students."

Shadfar reported that during the 1980s, with turmoil brewing around the world, Donnelly's ESL program grew to more

than 523 students, most hailing from Laos, Vietnam and Russia.

Ten years after being hired as an instructor in the evening ESL program, Shadfar was promoted to Director of the Day and Evening ESL programs. He became Associate Dean of Preparatory Studies in 2005, but continues to teach ESL classes to international students.



Associate Dean Cyrus Shadfar being energized in the classroom

"Yes, I still teach because it energizes me. Sometimes I may be tired, but when I get into the classroom, I come alive!"

Donnelly still attracts international students to its ESL program in spite of the fact that there are many area ESL programs in existence today.

*"We provide personal service," Shadfar explained. "Other area ESL programs teach English by using CD's and video productions."*

At Donnelly, we create real life situations and do a lot of role playing. We teach students how to become U.S. citizens and above all, how to succeed academically.”

Donnelly offers the English as a Second Language program to help underserved members of society attain English language proficiency, so they may continue their education and participate in the community.



The ESL program, which has been offered at Donnelly since 1972, is designed to give special training in the use of the English language to students who are not native speakers of English. Donnelly serves international students aspiring to study in the United States, recent immigrants and refugees, and American citizens who want to improve their education in English.

Donnelly’s ESL instruction goes the additional step to teach American customs

and traditions by a balance of classroom instruction, enrichment experiences and social gatherings that foster appreciation for all cultures and ethnicity.

Courses in the ESL program are offered at 12 different levels of difficulty in reading, vocabulary, listening, speaking, pronunciation, composition and grammar.



Htee law Sue has been in Donnelly’s ESL program for two months. She was born in a refugee camp in Thailand.

“I like Donnelly because they treat me the same as everybody else and don’t look down on me because I’m a refugee,” Sue said.

Maher Issa came to Donnelly from Lebanon and has also been in Donnelly’s ESL program for two months. His aspirations are to study English and then obtain a B.A. degree in business administration.



“Donnelly is affordable and a good, quiet place where people are kind,” Issa said.

According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2005 American Community Survey, 20% of the residents of Wyandotte County, Kansas, 5 years of age and older, speak a language other than English at home. Data also shows that the Hispanic population in Wyandotte County, where Donnelly is located, has seen a 25% increase from the year 2000 to 2004.

## Remembering great teachers

### Class News

1951

**Joanne Dorney Brown** underwent surgery December 3, 2007.

1952

**Bob Brown** went through surgery the week of March 3rd, 2008.

1954

**Norman Coakley, Jr.**'s son and daughter-in-law just blessed him with his eleventh grandchild. He also has one great-grandchild.

1973

**Therese Bade** is in the hospital with rheumatoid arthritis. Please pray for her.

1974

**John Mendez** was selected to serve as chairman of the American Red Cross fundraising campaign during March.

1977

**Rosa Mera's** son, Arturo Mera, currently attends Donnelly as a freshman.

### In Memoriam

#### Class of 1964

**James Ryan** - January 8, 2008

#### Class of 1986

**Albrena (Davis) Jones** - May 7, 2007

#### Class of 1965

**Dorothy (Oherkrons) Hirsch** - September 14, 2007

Father Frank Horvat attended Donnelly College from 1950-1952 and was a member of the second graduating class. He remembers all of Donnelly's teachers of that time. There was Sister Jerome Keeler who was the college's first Dean, Sister Kathleen Brazzel who taught him trigonometry, Sister Elaine Cranford who



Francis Michael Horvat

taught chemistry, Sister Suzanne Schmelzle who taught Latin, Sisters Scholastica and Faith Schuster who taught English. "They were all great teachers," he said.

During Father Horvat's college days, he frequently chauffeured the Benedictine Sisters to Atchison, because they had no car. "Donnelly was like a big family," he said. "We got to know the teachers well in the small classes."

The last born of 13 children, Father Horvat and his siblings grew up on a truck farm, the land of which is now the location of Christ the King parish. He was baptized at St. John the Baptist Church, where he has served as pastor for the past 15 years.

One of Father Horvat's memories about his early days at Donnelly is the first time he skipped classes. "It was the day the Korean War started," he said. "The North Central Accreditation team had come to Donnelly and the Sisters were going to invite me to dinner. But they couldn't find me and called my parents. No one knew I was off playing pool."

Father Horvat said he sees Donnelly

College as a beacon of hope in Kansas City, Kansas.

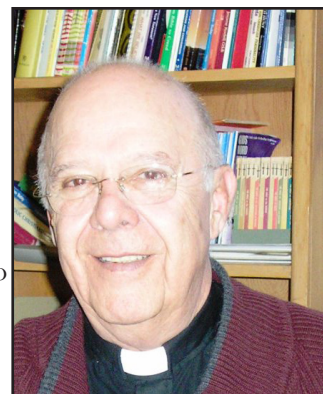
"I think Donnelly has contributed more to the city than any other institution in its own quiet way," he said. "It has provided educational opportunities to many who would not be able to go to college. Its leadership has been outstanding."

He is pleased that Donnelly offers financial aid and bachelor's degree programs and provides classes for the inmates at the Lansing Correctional Facility. "It's the only chance they have to turn their lives around," he said. "Anyone can go to college there, even if they don't have money," he said.

Father Horvat will celebrate 50 years in the priesthood on June 1, 2008. The day will be celebrated at St. John the Baptist's parish, with a Mass of Thanksgiving, followed by a Croatian dinner and the music of Don Lipovac. St. John the Baptist was the original parish for Croations in Kansas City, Kansas, and still boasts about 325 Croatian families.

Although Father Horvat has had quadruple bypass surgery several years ago, it hasn't seemed to slow him down.

"I have no intention of retiring," Father Horvat said. "There's nothing else I'd rather be doing."



Father Francis Michael Horvat



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## Donnelly soccer clubs build school spirit



Richard J. (Dick) Flanigan  
Donnelly Board of Trustees

*“I’m a big soccer fan. It’s a world sport and anybody can play. All it takes is a ball and a field. It’s growing in popularity in the U.S. I wanted to get it started at Donnelly to raise the profile of the college and to build school spirit,” Flanigan said.*

Soccer has generated a lot of enthusiasm at Donnelly College, since it began last fall. Although the players don’t wear fancy uniforms or win many games, they have a lot of fun and show good sportsmanship. When they play at the All-American Indoor field at 87th and Quivira in Overland Park, their families and friends cheer them on. With more experience and practice, the teams hope to win more games.

Jaime Fuentes, head coach and Donnelly Academic Computing Coordinator, is pleased with the effort of the men’s and women’s teams. “I think they are representing Donnelly very well,” he said. “The men’s team is more competitive, and the women’s team is more interested in having fun. But, they both have a good spirit and show respect for opposing teams. I always remind them that they are representing Donnelly.”

Most of the women have never played soccer before, but they are eager learners. Paola Zapata from Bolivia is one of the few women players with soccer experience. “I grew up watching soccer and I’ve been playing since I was 15,” she said. “We lost every game last semester but we love to play anyway.”



Practice is held in Donnelly’s parking lot or in the City Park from 3 to 5 p.m. The women players show dedication by practicing at 6 a.m. on some Saturdays. “It’s dark and cold, but we want to improve,” Zapata said.

Dick Flanigan, Donnelly board member, has given generous financial support to the soccer teams, and donated equipment. The players’ bake sale last fall helped buy gloves for the goalies and soccer balls.



Flanigan is gratified with the students’ response. “I’m a big soccer fan,” he said. “It’s a world sport and anybody can play. All it takes is a ball and a field. It’s growing in popularity in the U.S. I wanted to get it started at Donnelly to raise the profile of the college and to build school spirit.”

Fuentes also teaches a one-credit-hour course in which students learn the history and rules of soccer. Students who take the soccer course must participate on the soccer team to fully earn the credit hour.

The men’s team has won two games and women’s team has been playing very well since the March 6 start of the spring semester games. The final games will be played April 17.

The soccer schedules are posted on our Web site at [donnelly.edu](http://donnelly.edu).



## Embracing Black heritage

Donnelly college has long recognized the importance of ethnic diversity. That commitment to ethnic diversity is evident during February, Black History Month, as students seem eager to learn more about the accomplishments of African Americans.

“The majority of written American history ignored the important roles and contributions made by African Americans,” said Dr. Amber Reagan-Kendrick, Dean of Student and Community Services. “When referenced, they were usually depicted negatively. African American history month serves as a reminder to all of the struggle and progress African Americans have made given their legacy of slavery.”



Cedric R. Saunders performing before Donnelly students and staff

Students and staff overflowed the Chapel Meeting Room on February 1, 2008, as Cedric R. Saunders masterfully performed a spirited portrayal of George Washington Carver, African American botanical researcher, agronomy educator and inventor. Saunders displayed dozens of the 100 industrial products Carver created from peanuts, including cosmetics, dyes, paints, plastics, gasoline and nitroglycerin.

Saunders, senior tool designer for Honeywell and an ordained minister at Hillview Church of God in Kansas City, has been known as “The StoryTeller,” and, for

over 15 years, he has ministered locally and nationally to a variety of audiences through storytelling.

The Black History Month Celebration continued with a presentation by Dr. J. Edgar Tidwell on February 13, 2008. Entitled *Against the Odds: Writers Growing up Black in Kansas*, Tidwell revealed the perseverance exhibited by Langston Hughes, Gordon Parks and Frank Marshall Davis, all reared in Kansas, in developing their remarkable literary talents.

Dr.

Tidwell is an associate professor of English at KU. His research specialties are

African American

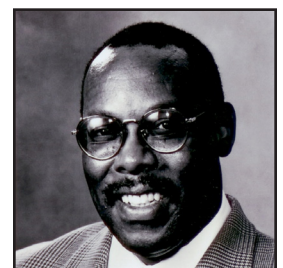
and American literatures. He has edited the memoirs and the collected poems of Kansas-born writer Frank Marshall Davis, written more than 14 essays on the esteemed African American poet Sterling A. Brown, and directed “Reading and Remembering Langston Hughes,” a series of poetry circles.

“It was interesting to learn about the obstacles Black Americans faced and how successful they became in spite of them,” said Evelia Siguenza, Donnelly student.

The tradition of celebrating Black History Month is credited to Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Harvard-educated and the son of former slaves.



Cedric R. Saunders portraying George Washington Carver



Dr. J. Edgar Tidwell, Associate Professor of English at the University of Kansas, Revealed how Langston Hughes, Gordon Parks and Frank Marshall Davis, famous African Americans, succeeded against the odds

## Coming Full Circle—one nurse’s story

In the 1950s, Marian Hall and the former Providence Hospital were training grounds for young women aspiring to enter the nursing profession.

Pat Cooley was one such individual. She began her nursing career in 1957, as a junior nurse’s aide in the former Providence Hospital, now the current location of Donnelly College.

In the fall of 1959, Pat entered the Sisters of Charity program at the Providence Hospital School of Nursing. Marian Hall housed the nursing class, which consisted of 44 young women. Individual class size was limited to 6-8 students. The subjects studied were obstetrics, surgery, pediatrics and psychology.

Pat described Marian Hall’s dorm life during the early 1960s.

“We girls had a ten p.m. curfew,” she said. “One time, several of us attended a movie starring Paul Newman, at the theater on Central Avenue next to Ball’s Market. The projector broke and by the time the man fixed it and we finished watching the movie, it was getting pretty close to curfew. We ran all the way back to Marian Hall, where Mother Rogers was waiting, more worried about us being late than we were.”

The Marian Hall nursing school dormitory closed in the early 1970s. Providence Hospital moved from 608 North 18th Street, in 1976.

Donnelly College moved into the vacant Providence Hospital building in 1982,



and in March of 2007, the Archdiocese gifted Marian Hall to Donnelly. In

September of 2007, Donnelly received a \$2.8 million grant to help launch a licensed practical nursing program. The new nursing program was approved by the Kansas State Board of Nursing on March 19, 2008, and will be housed in Marian Hall. And who do you think one of the new nursing program’s instructors will be?

“I’ve come full circle,” Pat Cooley said. “I’m back in the old Providence Hospital building and will soon be back in Marian Hall, making nurses out of women and men who never thought they’d get the opportunity.”



Pat Cooley, in 2007, standing next to the dorm room she occupied as an aspiring nursing student in 1960



Pat Cooley, nursing school graduate - 1962

## Permanent Scholarship Fund Memorializes Archbishop Strecker

When Donnelly was struggling to continue its mission of serving urban core adults seeking higher education in the '70s and '80s, Archbishop Ignatius Strecker was a staunch supporter. During his time as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas from 1969-1993, he demonstrated dedication and commitment to Catholic education at all levels. In an era when Catholic schools were closing in almost every diocese in the U.S., he provided financial support to the schools within the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, especially in the declining residential areas.

In that era of closing Catholic schools, Donnelly College did not escape the bleak picture. Donnelly's private institution status and mission to serve those who might otherwise go unserved put the college in jeopardy of closing its doors. Archbishop Strecker never wavered in his support of Donnelly, even when many were saying the school should close to limit its losses. Thanks to the Archbishop, Donnelly survived.

"Archbishop Strecker was convinced that education was essential to break the cycle of poverty," said Jim Owens, a retired administrative officer of the Archdiocese. "With the support of Donnelly's board of directors and the exceptional leadership of its presidents during the '70s and '80s, Donnelly survived that critical time in its history. Donnelly most likely exists today because of his dedicated commitment."

Owens, along with Dr. John Murry, who served as president of Donnelly from 1987 through 1998, sought a way to memorialize the Archbishop's important role

in Donnelly's history. In 2007, Owens and Murray and their wives established and provided the initial funding for the Archbishop Strecker Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship fund provides financial aid to students within the 21 counties of the Archdiocese who would not be able to attend college without financial assistance.



*Archbishop Ignatius Strecker*

"We encourage others to contribute to the Archbishop Strecker Scholarship so that more than one student can be assisted or a larger amount can be awarded to a selected student," Dr. Murry said.

"Donnelly couldn't be more thrilled to have this permanent scholarship fund established as a tribute to such an instrumental leader," said Emily Buckley, Director of Development. "It will advance a cause he believed in and further Donnelly's rich history."

### Interested in doubling your gift to Donnelly?

Donnelly College has \$500,000 in matching funds available from the federal government to help increase the school's endowment. This grant is a component of the \$2.8 million U.S. Department of Education Title V grant that Donnelly was awarded in October 2007. (Title V grants are awarded only to "Hispanic-Serving" colleges across the country.)

For more information on receiving a dollar for dollar match of your gift by contributing to an existing scholarship fund, such as the Archbishop Strecker scholarship, or creating a new permanent scholarship fund, contact the development office at [ebuckley@donnelly.edu](mailto:ebuckley@donnelly.edu) or 913.621.8731.



## Calendar of Events

### APRIL

- April 2 **Poetry Festival** 1-3 p.m.,  
Donnelly meeting room
- April 12 **Donnelly Dash Health Walk**  
9 a.m., Donnelly
- April 24 & 25 **Donnelly Multi-Cultural Fair**  
6-9 p.m. (24th) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
(25th), Donnelly
- April 30 **Career Fair** - 10 a.m.,  
Donnelly (public invited)

### MAY

- May 14 **Graduation Breakfast** - 9 a.m.,  
Donnelly meeting room
- May 15 **Graduation** - 7 p.m.,  
Screenland Granada, 1015  
Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City,  
Kansas

### SEPTEMBER

- September 6 Annual Scholarship Dinner honoring  
the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St.  
Scholastica, Reardon Center - 6 p.m.



The Henry W. Bloch Scholars program hosted its spring luncheon on February 15, welcoming a new crop of scholarship recipients.



Henry W. Bloch welcomed the new Bloch Scholars and offered them words of encouragement, in their quest for four-year degrees, at Donnelly College's scholarship luncheon held February 15, 2008.

**Don't forget to check [donnelly.edu](http://donnelly.edu) for more event information and the weekly soccer schedules**



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